

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: MNUC, PARM, SF
SUB: VISIT OF AMB SMITH TO SOUTH AFRICA : PRESS
REVERBERATIONS.

REF: LONDON 10177

1. A STORY IN THE TIMES FOR JUNE 28, DATELINED
JOHANNESBURG, PICKED UP THEMES OF PREVIOUS DAY'S
FINANCIAL TIMES STORY, REPORTING REFUSAL TO COMMENT BY
"OFFICIAL SOURCES", BUT REPORTED SURPRISE TV APPEARANCE
BY DR. AMPIE ROUX, PRESIDENT OF SA ATOMIC ENERGY BOARD
IN WHICH ROUX SAID ALTHOUGH SA HAD NEVER CONSIDERED
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EMBARGOING URANIUM OXIDE SHIPMENTS TO WESTERN EUROPE,
IT WOULD HURT IF IT DID SO.

2. A FOLLOW ON FRONT PAGE TIMES STORY FROM JOHANNES-
BERG DATELINED JUNE 28 WAS HEADLINED "AMERICA READY FOR
NUCLEAR WASTE DEAL WITH SOUTH AFRICA". THE STORY,
WHICH RAISES A NUMBER OF NEW THEMES BUT QUOTES ONLY

"INFORMED SOURCES" IS QUOTED BELOW IN ENTIRETY.

3. QUOTE: THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARING TO DO A DEAL WITH SOUTH AFRICA TO RECYCLE NUCLEAR WASTE WHICH IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS WOULD PROVIDE SOUTH AFRICA WITH THE CAPABILITY TO PRODUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

INFORMED SOURCES SAID TODAY THAT TALKS, WHICH HAVE OPENED IN PRETORIA BETWEEN A SENIOR AMERICAN ENVOY AND THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT ON MATTERS "OF MUTUAL INTEREST", ARE DESIGNED TO FIND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RECYCLING OF SOUTH AFRICA'S NUCLEAR WASTE.

YESTERDAY, THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT DENIED ALL KNOWLEDGE THAT A SPECIAL WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVE WAS COMING TO SOUTH AFRICA TO DISCUSS THE MATTER. SOUTH AFRICA PROVIDES 18 PER CENT OF THE WEST'S URANIUM SUPPLIES AND IS PROGRAMMED TO PROVIDE CONSIDERABLY MORE DURING THE NEXT FEW YEARS AS MINING PROJECTS DEVELOP.

TODAY, PRETORIA DISCLOSED THAT MR. GERARD SMITH, A SENIOR AMERICAN DIPLOMAT, HAD ARRIVED IN PRETORIA. THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DECLINED TO COMMENT ON REPORTS THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT HAS ASKED THE UNITED STATES FOR FIRM GUARANTEES ON THE SUPPLY OF ENRICHED URANIUM IN EXCHANGE FOR SIGNING THE NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.

IT IS KNOWN, HOWEVER, THAT SOUTH AFRICA URGENTLY NEEDS ENRICHED URANIUM TO ADVANCE ITS OWN TECHNOLOGY.
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AMERICAN SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN WITHHELD SINCE 1976.

SOUTH AFRICA IS NOW PROPOSING THAT ITS NUCLEAR WASTE BE SENT TO THE UNITED STATES FOR RECYCLING. IN EXCHANGE SOUTH AFRICA WILL GET THE RECYCLED FUEL, WHICH INCLUDES PLUTONIUM, AS WELL AS TECHNOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE TO ADVANCE ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAMME.

LAST YEAR, SOUTH AFRICA DENIED THAT IT WAS PREPARING TO TEST A NUCLEAR DEVICE IN THE KALAHARI DESERT, AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS HAVE STATED FREQUENTLY THAT SOUTH AFRICA'S NUCLEAR RESERACH IS AIMED SOLELY AT PEACEFUL USES.

A RENEWED SUPPLY OF ENRICHED NUCLEAR FUEL PLUS RECYCLED URANIUM FROM THE UNITED STATES WOULD CERTAINLY GIVE SOUTH AFRICA THE CAPABILITY OF BUILDING WEAPONS WHICH IT MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE NOW.

MR. R.F. BOTHA, THE FOREIGN MINISTER, SAID TODAY THAT HE HAD "NO DESIRE TO JOIN IN PURE SPECULATION" THAT SOUTH AFRICA IS ABOUT TO SIGN THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY.

MR. SMITH HAS BEEN CLOSELY CONCERNED WITH INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC AFFAIRS AND IS A FORMER HEAD OF THE AMERICAN TEAM AT THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS. UNQUOTE.

4. A BRIEF SQUIB FRONT PAGED BY HERALD TRIBUNE AND
DATELINED PRETORIA SIMPLY REPORTS OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION
OF SMITH VISIT.
BREWSTER

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